


Hello.

I'm going to take you on a journey through the **Introductory Paragraph.**

Please keep your arms and feet inside the car at all times.

Thank you and enjoy the ride.

Think of the introduction paragraph as a tornado.



← This is your **attention grabber**.

"Holy Crap! Look at the crazy cloud!"

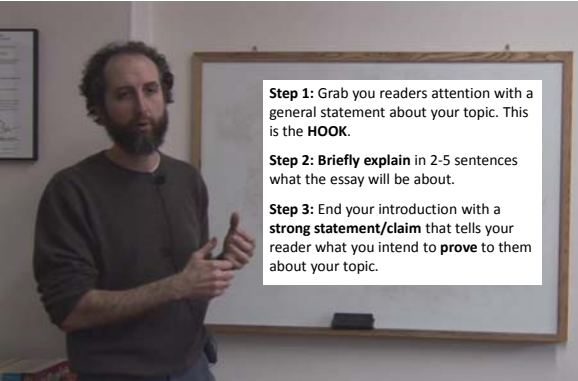
← This is your **brief explanation** of what you will be talking about or, in this case, what is going on.

"There's a weird funnel that looks like a tornado."

← This is your **thesis**, where you hit your point home.

"Yup, that's a tornado alright."

There are three steps to writing an introductory paragraph. Just ask this guy:



Step 1: Grab your readers attention with a general statement about your topic. This is the **HOOK**.

Step 2: Briefly explain in 2-5 sentences what the essay will be about.

Step 3: End your introduction with a **strong statement/claim** that tells your reader what you intend to **prove** to them about your topic.



Step 1:
Hook Your Reader

Grab your reader's attention with a general statement about the topic

Remember you have 5 ways to do this:

1. Dialogue
2. Question
3. Vivid Description
4. Interesting Fact
5. Sound Effect

You want your reader to have this reaction →

Step 2:**Explain What You Are Talking About**

Briefly explain in 2-5 sentences what the essay will be about.



I demand one

Step 3:**Write Your Thesis Statement**

Your thesis statement tells the reader your position on a topic.

It should be clear, concise and cunning like this cougar →

A cougar would not waste time if it wants to strike. Neither, should you.

Your thesis needs to be direct and to the point.

**Things to AVOID**

You should **avoid** using statements like, "This essay will discuss..." or "I'm going to write about..."

~~In this essay, I am going to discuss the effects of long-term drug abuse.~~

✓ Long-term drug use can have disastrous effects on one's marriage, career, and health.



AVOID statements that are too broad, too specific, or too vague.

Smoking-related diseases cause an estimated 440,000 American deaths each year.

Hook
(Interesting Fact)

Even with facts like these, the whole country is divided on this issue. Some people believe that smoking should be banned everywhere while others are not so harsh. I believe, however, that tobacco should be outlawed because smoking endangers everyone's health, pollutes the environment, and drains us of valuable energy.

Brief Explanation
(Leads into thesis)

Thesis
(What you will be proving)

I believe, however, tobacco should be outlawed because smoking endangers everyone's health, pollutes the environment, and drains us of valuable energy.

If what's in red is the **MAIN IDEA** then, what is in black are the reasons **WHY** you think this.



The subtopics are you answering

Lets put it this way:

Tobacco should be outlawed.

Why?

Because smoking endangers everyone's health, pollutes the environment, and drains us of valuable energy.

The rest of your essay consists of you explaining why these are valuable reasons.



REMEMBER:

Writing a thesis is like being a lawyer

Lawyer: That man is guilty
Judge: Alright, do you have any proof?
Lawyer: Why, yes. I have a gun.
Judge: Well, explain how this gun shows that he's guilty.

STATE your case

Show **EVIDENCE/PROOF**

THESIS

EXPLAIN your proof

ESSAY



Confused?

Ask Questions.